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Lux et Perseverantia

Memory
All alone in the moonlight
I can smile at the old days
I was beautiful then
I remember
The time I knew what happiness was
Let the memory live again

— *Grizabella*, **Cats**¹

In the end, people don't view their life as merely the average of all its moments—which, after all, is mostly nothing much plus some sleep. For human beings, life is meaningful because it is a story. A story has a sense of a whole, and its arc is determined by the significant moments, the ones where something happens. Measurements of people's minute-by-minute levels of pleasure and pain miss this fundamental aspect of human existence. A seemingly happy life may be empty. A seemingly difficult life may be devoted to a great cause. We have purposes larger than ourselves.

— *Atul Gawande*, **Being Mortal**

“Everybody does have a book in them, but in most cases that's where it should stay.”

— *Christopher Hitchens*

¹ From the musical *Cats* by Andrew Lloyd Webber; inspired by T.S. Eliot's *Rhapsody on a Windy Night*

“Don't let it end like this. Tell them I said something.”

— [*Pancho Villa*](#), last words